

Opponent to SB 493

To Senate Committee on Commerce, 2-14-22

I was shocked to learn of this bill that so affronts Kansas' official "Home Rule." This bill would require all our state's municipalities and decision-makers to ignore to their own localities' needs. Lakin and Cherokee and Clay Center and tidy Hesston do not have the high number of fast food places nor their plastic as my city does. They have other legitimate civic concerns. That's what Home Rule is about!



Trash bin at a data collection site

Wichita State University's Environmental Finance Center just last month released the results of its Wichita Litter Study. That study documented that about half of the litter in Wichita parks (which are far better and more frequently groomed than other public places and streets) was plastic or foam, with 75% coming from fast foods and drinks.

The report also included the high tax cost of cleaning up these persistent plastics that wash into and clog Wichita's sewers and stuff our landfill.

Another interesting part of that careful WSU study was that the groundwork was done by proud, clean-city-minded *volunteers*, happy to be working for the public good in their own areas.

Plastic accumulation and pollution is a localized problem. Cities, towns and counties should take their own surveys and do their own work and decision-making. I urge you to vote against this anti-Home-Rule bill, and thank you.



Volunteers collecting data in South Riverside Park

Sincerely, Jane Byrnes, 322 S Lorraine, Wichita KS 67211, [urbanejane5@gmail.com](mailto:urbanejane5@gmail.com)